

I CLAIM:

1. A method of selectively distributing invitations for a plurality of events, the method comprising the steps of:

storing event information about each of a plurality of events, wherein the event information for each of the plurality of events includes at least one invitee selection criterion;

storing member information about each of a plurality of members;

detecting, for each of the plurality of members, whether the at least one invitee selection criterion for each of the events matches the member information; and

sending an e-mail invitation to at least some of the members for whom a match was detected in the detecting step, wherein the e-mail invitation invites its recipient to at least some of the events for which a match was detected in the detecting step, and

wherein at least one of the e-mail invitations sent in the sending step invites its recipient to a plurality of events for which a match was detected in the detecting steps.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one invitee selection criterion comprises an area of practice.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one invitee selection criterion for each of the plurality of events is selected by a sponsor of the respective event.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one invitee selection criterion comprises an identifier that uniquely identifies an individual member.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one invitee selection criterion comprises a list of identifiers, each of which uniquely identifies an individual member.

6. A method of selectively distributing invitations for a plurality of events, the method comprising the steps of:

storing event information about each of a plurality of events, wherein the event information for each of the plurality of events includes at least one invitee selection criterion;

storing member information about each of a plurality of members, wherein the member information for each of the plurality of members includes at least one member preference;

determining, based on (a) matches between the member information and the at least one invitee selection criterion for each of the plurality of events and (b) matches between the event information and the at least one member preference for the

respective members, which events each of the plurality of members should be invited to; and

sending invitations to the members based on results of the determining step.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein at least some of the invitations sent in the sending step invites its recipient to more than one of the events.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein, in the determining step, a decision to invite a given member to a given event requires (a) a match between the member information for the given member and the at least one invitee selection criterion for the given event and (b) a match between the event information for the given event and the member preference for the given member.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the invitations are sent via email.

10. The method of claim 6, wherein, in the determining step, a decision to invite a given member to a given event requires (a) a match between the member information for the given member and the at least one invitee selection criterion for the given event

and (b) a match between the event information for the given event and the member preference for the given member.

11. The method of claim 6, wherein the at least one invitee selection criterion comprises an area of practice.

12. The method of claim 6, wherein the at least one invitee selection criterion for each of the plurality of events is selected by a sponsor of the respective event.

13. The method of claim 6, wherein the at least one invitee selection criterion comprises an identifier that uniquely identifies an individual member.

14. The method of claim 6, wherein the at least one invitee selection criterion comprises a list of identifiers, each of which uniquely identifies an individual member.

15. A computer-readable medium upon which executable instructions are stored, wherein the instructions instruct a computer to facilitate the selective distribution of invitations by performing the steps of:

storing event information about each of a plurality of events, wherein the event information for each of the plurality of events includes at least one invitee selection criterion;

storing member information about each of a plurality of members, wherein the member information for each of the plurality of members includes at least one member preference;

determining, based on (a) matches between the member information and the at least one invitee selection criterion for each of the plurality of events and (b) matches between the event information and the at least one member preference for the respective members, which events each of the plurality of members should be invited to; and

sending email invitations to the members based on results of the determining step.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein at least some of the invitations sent in the sending step invites its recipient to more than one of the events.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein, in the determining step, a decision to invite a given member to a given event requires (a) a match between the member information for the given member and the at least one invitee selection criterion for the given event

and (b) a match between the event information for the given event and the member preference for the given member.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein, in the determining step, a decision to invite a given member to a given event requires (a) a match between the member information for the given member and the at least one invitee selection criterion for the given event and (b) a match between the event information for the given event and the member preference for the given member.